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To those already familiar with the writings of this author it is unnecessary to remark upon the excellence of his expository style. The structuralistic mode of treatment lends itself well to clarity of expression, and Professor Titchener has developed a method of presenting dry and abstruse facts that is a model of lucidity. The textbook writer will admire the masterly technique displayed in guiding the uncertain steps of the beginner through the maze of intricacies and ambiguities that usually constitutes the study of psychology, and the lay reader will be so charmed with the pleasantly intimate style of the work that he will be stimulated to further psychological researches, the sources for which are suggested in a choice bibliography at the end of every chapter.

H. D. KITSON

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The Making of Modern Europe. (Vol. II, The First Renaissance, 1000-1190 A.D.) By C. R. L. FLETCHER. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1915. Pp. viii+435. \$2.50.

That the centuries which Mr. Fletcher has chosen to treat in this volume were a period of the wildest confusion in Europe, no one will deny. The darker ages which preceded are simplified, historically speaking, by the very paucity of dependable sources, but for the high Middle Ages there are chroniclers in increasing numbers, and the beginnings of state archives. For an author to thread the mazes of this labyrinth of conflicting authorities and obscure or confusing movements, and yet keep the thread of his narrative and interpretation clear, is indeed a task.

The author, who is writing a text rather than a treatise, has attacked the problem by taking the eleventh and twelfth centuries to be a historical unit, which he calls the First Renaissance. He sees as the main characteristic of this period, granting always the vast importance of the struggle between pope and emperor, the development of an increasingly intense nationalism. The string upon which he threads his valuation and interpretation is the conception of the Western nations as daughters of the Roman Empire.

Not being a work of research, and not pretending to add to facts already known, the book need be criticized from but one angle, its aim being to make clear to the average student or reader what we know of two centuries of very complicated history. As one volume in a series, it takes a purely horizontal cut of history; but in this narrowed period it falls back on the inevitable vertical. Four chapters in succession, out of a total of eight, are devoted to the German Empire, carrying the history of the great imperial-papal struggle to the death of Barbarossa. It is of course impossible to treat the history of the thirteenth century without giving large space to this great German imperial aspiration, which lives again in modern Germany, and did so much to shape and to warp the development of the German people. Nevertheless, one cannot help feeling that the growth of the real Germany that lay behind the

dwindling powers and exalted claims of the emperor is of far greater importance. The colonizing activity of Albrecht the Bear of Brandenburg, and of Henry the Lion of Saxony, which drove the Slavs to the eastward, and opened a new world to the German people, was far more significant than the exploits of Barbarossa, or the fascinatingly interesting life of Frederick II. As to whether or not the author exaggerates the influence of nationalism on the mediaeval empire, it would be hard to say. Certainly German nationalism was never allowed to crystalize about one center.

The France of these two centuries is given but one chapter, but a long one, and a very good one. The outline of the development of France is of course much simpler than that of Germany, and involves fewer debatable main points. Remembering always the infinite complication of detail, it is easy to grasp and outline a history which groups itself about the expansion and consolidation of the central and royal power at the expense of the local feudality.

A summary treatment of Spain and the crusades is to be expected, for Spain was quite separated from the rest of Europe in its historical development, and the details of the crusades can hardly be given much space in a one-volume text.

Mr. Fletcher has written a good text for the mediaeval period. His English is rather slangy, at times, and he sacrifices the institutional and economico-social development to the interests of narrative history, but his book is clearly written, and easy to follow.

NORMAN PARKER

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Principles of Agronomy. By HARRIS and STEWART. (Rural Textbook Series, edited by L. H. BAILEY.) New York: Macmillan, 1915. Pp. 16+451.

Many textbooks on agriculture for the high schools have been written, and few achieved. A volume which will reveal all the wonderful romance of agriculture to boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, many of whom have no closer acquaintance with farming than what they see from the roadside, and many even to whom the great outdoors is a total mystery, must be unusual in presentment.

Principles of Agronomy, one would suppose, if its title were accurate, would treat of plant life as applied to practical farm crops. The volume does this very fully and very accurately; in fact, it does much more. It treats of the basic facts of plant growth, of soil, and of climate, although we would quarrel with the writers that a knowledge of botany and chemistry is not necessary to understand the book. We really feel that it is almost too technical for high-school use, or else we are no judge of the character of the average high school. *Principles of Agronomy* is a textbook; by their formal and consciously didactic presentation, this fact is emphasized by the authors. Enough information is contained in the volume to make whoever masters it wonderfully